

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [00049] with the following amended paragraph:

[00049] The body ~~[[308]]~~ 312 may comprise a super elastic (shape memory) material, such as Nitinol or copper-based alloys, to perform functions of a disc. For example, the body ~~[[308]]~~ 312 may allow the occurrence of the spinal bending motions. The tips 310 and/or 314 may also comprise a super elastic (shape memory) material, such as Nitinol or copper-based alloys, and may assist the body ~~[[308]]~~ 312 in performing disc functions. It is contemplated that the body ~~body 308~~ 312 and the tips 310, 314 may be produced from a single-piece material. Alternatively, they may be created by separate pieces of materials, and connected together by any conventional means, such as by bonding or being screwed together. In that case, it is contemplate that the tips 310 and/or 314 may comprise any biocompatible material, such as 22Co-13Cr-5Mo, cobalt chrome, stainless steel, titanium, shape memory alloys, polymers, carbon fiber, polythene, polyurethane, polyethylene, porous material or silicone.

Please replace paragraph [00052] with the following amended paragraph:

[00052] In furtherance of this example, the damping sleeve 310 is coupled with the shell 302. The damping sleeve 310 may serve to prevent the pillar 308 from moving too far from its designed position and become dislocated. In addition, the damping sleeve ~~[[308]]~~ 310 may provide various degrees of flexibility for the disc replacement device, and modulates the stiffness of the disc replacement device. As described previously, the damping sleeve ~~[[308]]~~ 310 may be mated with the shell 302 in a variety of means.

Please replace paragraph [00053] with the following amended paragraph:

[00053] In this illustration, from a cross-sectional view, the damping sleeve ~~[[308]]~~ 310 has an inner surface 318 that may comprise a variety of shapes, such as a partial rectangular, partial circular, oval, flat or irregular shape.